

Additional Information: The Department is requesting emergency processing and a May 3 approval for this information collection since it could potentially result in public harm if this collection went through the normal clearance process. Applications for Character Education Program grants must be available in early May in order to provide applicants with sufficient time to develop and submit strong applications by early July, 2002. The Department of Education must award these grants by early August or sooner to allow the involved state and local education agencies sufficient time for planning during the summer so that implementation occurs in September, 2002.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 500.

Burden Hours: 12,000.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2028. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address vivian.reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Kathy Axt at her internet address Kathy.Axt@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA Nos.: 84.282A, 84.282B, and 84.282C]

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education—Public Charter Schools Program (PCSP); Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2002.

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the PCSP is to increase national understanding of the charter school model and to expand the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the Nation by providing financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools; evaluating the effects of charter schools, including the effects on students, student academic achievement, staff, and parents; and encouraging States to provide support to charter schools for facilities financing in an amount more commensurate to the amount States have typically provided for traditional public schools.

Eligible Applicants: (a) State educational agencies (SEAs) in States with a specific State statute authorizing the establishment of charter schools may apply for funding. The Secretary awards grants to SEAs to enable them to conduct charter school programs in their States. SEAs use their PCSP funds to award subgrants to "eligible applicants," as defined in this notice, for planning, program design, and initial implementation of a charter school; and to support the dissemination of information about, and successful practices in, charter schools. A charter school may apply for funds to carry out dissemination activities, whether or not the charter school has applied for or received funds under the PCSP for planning or implementation, if the charter school has been in operation for at least three consecutive years and has demonstrated overall success, including—

(1) Substantial progress in improving student achievement;

(2) High levels of parent satisfaction; and

(3) The management and leadership necessary to overcome initial start-up problems and establish a thriving, financially viable charter school.

(b) Non-SEA eligible applicants may apply for funding directly from the U.S. Department of Education (Department) if the SEA in the State elects not to participate in the PCSP or does not have an application approved under the program. An "eligible applicant" is defined as a developer that has applied to an authorized chartering authority to operate a charter school and has

provided to that authority adequate and timely notice and a copy of its PCSP application, *except that these requirements may be waived in the case of a pre-charter planning grant.* If an SEA's application is approved in this competition, applications received from non-SEA eligible applicants in that State will be returned to the applicants. In such a case, the non-SEA eligible applicant should contact the SEA for information related to the State's subgrant competition.

Note: The following States currently have approved applications under this program: California, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Texas. In these States, only the SEA is eligible to receive an award under this competition. Eligible applicants in these States should contact their respective SEAs for information about participation in the State's charter school subgrant program. Non-SEA eligible applicants in States that are not listed above must apply directly to the Department on or before the deadline for transmittal of applications in order to be considered for funding in this competition.

Applications Available: May 3, 2002.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 2, 2002.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 3, 2002.

Estimated Available Funds: \$50,000,000.

Estimated Range of Awards:

State educational agencies: \$500,000–\$8,000,000 per year.

Other eligible applicants: \$10,000–\$150,000 per year.

Estimated Average Size of Awards:

State educational agencies: \$2,500,000 per year.

Other eligible applicants: \$150,000 per year.

Estimated Number of Awards:

State educational agencies: 15–18.

Other eligible applicants: 50–70.

Note: These estimates are projections for the guidance of potential applicants. The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Note: Grants awarded by the Secretary directly to non-SEA eligible applicants or subgrants awarded by SEAs to eligible applicants will be awarded for a period of up to 36 months, no more than 18 months of which may be used for planning and program design; no more than two years of which may be used for the initial implementation of a charter school; and no more than two years of which may be used to carry out dissemination activities.

Applicable Regulations and Statute:

(a) The Education Department General

Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 75, 76, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 97, and 99; and (b) Title V, part B, subpart 1 (formerly Title X, part C) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (ESEA), 20 U.S.C. 7221–7221j.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As part of wider education reform efforts to improve student achievement, the development of charter schools is an innovative approach to improving public education and expanding parental options in education. While charter school laws vary by State, public charter schools are granted greater flexibility in exchange for accountability for results. They are also public schools of choice in that all students, parents, and faculty associate with charter schools voluntarily. They are intended to stimulate the creativity and commitment of teachers, parents, students, and citizens to improve student academic achievement.

Congress reauthorized the PCSP in January 2002, by enacting the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Under the new legislation, a non-SEA eligible applicant for PCSP funds must submit an application for a charter to an authorized public chartering agency and provide adequate and timely notice and a copy of its PCSP application to the authorized public chartering agency. The SEA or the Secretary may waive these requirements in cases where the eligible applicant is applying for a pre-charter planning grant or subgrant.

The new legislation also added a specific provision prohibiting local educational agencies (LEAs) from deducting funds for administrative fees or expenses from a subgrant awarded to an eligible applicant, unless the eligible applicant voluntarily enters into a mutually agreed upon arrangement for administrative services with the LEA. Additional information about the PCSP, including application requirements, selection criteria, priorities, diversity of projects, and waivers is provided in the application package for this program.

Selection Criteria

The Department will hold three (3) separate competitions under this program. All SEA applicants must apply for grant funds under CFDA No. 84.282A. Non-SEA eligible applicants that propose to use grant funds for planning, program design, and implementation must apply under CFDA No. 84.282B; and non-SEA eligible applicants that are requesting funds for dissemination activities must submit their applications under CFDA No. 84.282C.

(A) *CFDA No. 84.282A—Selection Criteria for SEAs.* SEAs that propose to use a portion of their grant funds for dissemination activities must address each selection criterion listed below. SEAs that do not propose to use a portion of their grant funds for dissemination activities must address selection criteria (1) through (7) only, and need not address selection criterion (8) below. The maximum possible score is 130 points for SEAs that do not propose to use grant funds to support dissemination activities, and 150 points for SEAs that propose to use grant funds to support dissemination activities. The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses following the criterion. To ensure fairness, if an SEA is not proposing to use grant funds to support dissemination activities, the Secretary will not consider points awarded under criterion (8) in determining whether to approve an application for funding.

In evaluating an application from an SEA, the Secretary considers the following criteria:

(1) The contribution the charter school grant program will make in assisting educationally disadvantaged and other students to achieve State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards (25 points).

(2) The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA to charter schools under the State's charter school law (20 points).

(3) The ambitiousness of the objectives for the State charter school grant program (15 points).

(4) The quality of the SEA's strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives (15 points).

(5) The likelihood that the charter school grant program will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students (15 points).

(6) The number of high-quality charter schools to be created in the State (20 points).

(7) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks (20 points).

(8) In the case of SEAs that propose to use grant funds to support dissemination activities under section 5204(f)(6) of the ESEA, the quality of the dissemination activities and the likelihood that those activities will improve student achievement (20 points).

(B) *CFDA No. 84.282B—Selection Criteria for Non-SEA Eligible Applicants for Planning, Program Design, and*

Implementation Grants. The maximum possible score for all of the criteria in this section is 145 points. The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses following the criterion. In evaluating an application from a non-SEA eligible applicant for Planning, Program Design, and Implementation, the Secretary considers the following criteria:

(1) The quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices (20 points).

(2) The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA and, if applicable, the (LEA) to the charter school (10 points).

(3) The extent of community support for the application (10 points).

(4) The ambitiousness of the objectives for the charter school (15 points).

(5) The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives (15 points).

(6) The likelihood that the charter school will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students during and after the period of Federal financial assistance (20 points).

(7) The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement (10 points).

(8) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director; and the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability (20 points).

(9) The contribution the charter school will make in assisting educationally disadvantaged and other students to achieve State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards (25 points).

(C) *CFDA No. 84.282C—Selection Criteria for Non-SEA Eligible Applicants for Dissemination Grants.* The maximum possible score for all of the criteria in this section is 125 points. The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses following the criterion. In evaluating an application from a non-SEA eligible applicant for a dissemination grant, the Secretary considers the following criteria:

(1) The quality of the proposed dissemination activities and the likelihood that those activities will improve student achievement (30 points).

(2) The extent to which the school has demonstrated overall success, including (a) substantial progress in improving student achievement (15 points); (b)

high levels of parent satisfaction (15 points); and (c) the management and leadership necessary to overcome initial start-up problems and establish a thriving, financially viable charter school (15 points).

(3) The extent to which the results of the proposed project are to be disseminated in a manner that will enable others to use the information or strategies (20 points).

(4) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience of the project director; and the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability (15 points).

(5) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks (15 points).

Priority Treatment: In accordance with statutory requirements, in awarding grants to SEAs under this competition, the Secretary gives priority to States to the extent that the State meets the statutory criterion described in paragraph (a) below, and one or more of the statutory criteria described in paragraphs (b) through (d) below. An SEA that meets priority (a) but does not meet one or more of the other priorities will not receive any priority points. Likewise, an SEA that does not meet priority (a) but meets one or more of the other priorities will not receive any priority points. The maximum number of priority points for all of the priorities in this section is 40 points.

(a) *Periodic Review and Evaluation.* The State provides for periodic review and evaluation by the authorized public chartering agency of each charter school at least once every 5 years, unless required more frequently by State law, to determine whether the charter school is meeting the terms of the school's charter, and is meeting or exceeding the academic performance requirements and goals for charter schools as set forth under State law or the school's charter (10 points).

(b) *Number of High-Quality Charter Schools.* The State has demonstrated progress in increasing the number of high-quality charter schools that are held accountable in the terms of the schools' charters for meeting clear and measurable objectives for the educational progress of the students attending the schools, in the period prior to the period for which an SEA or

eligible applicant applies for a grant under this competition (10 points).

(c) *One Authorized Public Chartering Agency Other than an LEA, or an Appeals Process.* The State—

(1) Provides for one authorized public chartering agency that is not an LEA, such as a State chartering board, for each individual or entity seeking to operate a charter school pursuant to such State law; or

(2) In the case of a State in which LEAs are the only authorized public chartering agencies, allows for an appeals process for the denial of an application for a charter school (10 points).

(d) *High Degree Autonomy.* The State ensures that each charter school has a high degree of autonomy over the charter school's budgets and expenditures (10 points).

Other Statutory Provisions: The following definitions, amount criteria, allowable activities, and authorized uses of funds for dissemination activities are taken from the PCSP authorizing statute, in Title V, Part B, Subpart 1 of the ESEA. They are repeated in this application notice for the convenience of the applicant. Other statutory requirements also apply to this program. The entire authorizing statute is included in the application package for the program.

Definitions

The following definitions apply to this program:

(a) *Charter school* means a public school that—

(1) In accordance with a specific State statute authorizing the granting of charters to schools, is exempted from significant State or local rules that inhibit the flexible operation and management of public schools, but not from any rules relating to the other requirements of this definition;

(2) Is created by a developer as a public school, or is adapted by a developer from an existing public school, and is operated under public supervision and direction;

(3) Operates in pursuit of a specific set of educational objectives determined by the school's developer and agreed to by the authorized public chartering agency;

(4) Provides a program of elementary or secondary education, or both;

(5) Is nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations, and is not affiliated with a sectarian school or religious institution;

(6) Does not charge tuition;

(7) Complies with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, title VI of

the Civil Rights Act of 1964, title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and part B of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act;

(8) Is a school to which parents choose to send their children, and that admits students on the basis of a lottery, if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated;

(9) Agrees to comply with the same Federal and State audit requirements as do other elementary and secondary schools in the State, unless the requirements are specifically waived for the purposes of this program;

(10) Meets all applicable Federal, State, and local health and safety requirements;

(11) Operates in accordance with State law; and

(12) Has a written performance contract with the authorized public chartering agency in the State that includes a description of how student performance will be measured in charter schools pursuant to State assessments that are required of other schools and pursuant to any other assessments mutually agreeable to the authorized public chartering agency and the charter school.

(b) *Developer* means an individual or group of individuals (including a public or private nonprofit organization), which may include teachers, administrators and other school staff, parents, or other members of the local community in which a charter school project will be carried out.

(c) *Eligible applicant* means a developer that has (1) applied to an authorized public chartering authority to operate a charter school; and (2) provided adequate and timely notice to that authority under section 5203(d)(3) of the ESEA.

Note: Section 5203(d)(3) requires the eligible applicant to provide the authority with timely notice and a copy of its application for PCSP funds. The Secretary or SEA may waive these requirements in the case of an application for a precharter planning grant or subgrant.

(d) *Authorized public chartering agency* means an SEA, LEA, or other public entity that has the authority under State law and is approved by the Secretary to authorize or approve a charter school.

Amount Criteria

In determining the amount of a grant to be awarded under this competition to an SEA, the Secretary shall take into consideration the number of charter schools that are operating or approved to open in the State.

Allowable Activities

An eligible applicant receiving a grant or subgrant under this program may use the grant or subgrant funds only for—

(a) Post-award planning and design of the educational program, which may include—

(1) Refinement of the desired educational results and of the methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results; and

(2) Professional development of teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school; and

(b) Initial implementation of the charter school, which may include—

(1) Informing the community about the school;

(2) Acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies;

(3) Acquiring or developing curriculum materials; and

(4) Other initial operating costs that cannot be met from State or local sources.

Use of Funds for Dissemination Activities

An SEA may reserve not more than 10 percent of the grant funds to support dissemination activities. A charter school may use those funds to assist other schools in adapting the charter school's program (or certain aspects of the charter school's program), or to disseminate information about the charter school, through such activities as—

(a) Assisting other individuals with the planning and start-up of one or more new public schools, including charter schools, that are independent of the assisting charter school and the assisting charter school's developers, and that agree to be held to at least as high a level of accountability as the assisting charter school;

(b) Developing partnerships with other public schools, including charter schools, designed to improve student performance in each of the schools participating in the partnership;

(c) Developing curriculum materials, assessments, and other materials that promote increased student achievement and are based on successful practices within the assisting charter school; and

(d) Conducting evaluations and developing materials that document the successful practices of the assisting charter school and that are designed to improve student achievement.

FOR APPLICATIONS AND FURTHER

INFORMATION CONTACT: Rik Lanzendorfer, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 3C148, Washington, DC 20202-6140. Telephone (202) 205-9786. Internet address: rik.lanzendorfer@ed.gov.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed.

Individuals with disabilities may also obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format on request to the contact person listed above.

However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternative format the standard forms included in the application package.

Electronic Access to This Document

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister.

To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the previous site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) toll free at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of a document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7221-7221j.

Dated: April 30, 2002.

Susan B. Neuman,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6628-9]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at (202) 564-7167. An explanation of the

ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 12, 2002 (67 FR 17992).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-BIA-K65237-CA Rating EC2, Agua Caliente Indian Reservation Project, Proposed Section 14 Specific Plan and Master Development Plan, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, City of Palm Springs, Riverside County, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about impacts to air and water quality, and the use of 1995 market studies to project growth and assess project impacts.

ERP No. D-COE-J28021-CO Rating EC2, Rueter-Hess Reservoir Project, Construction and Operation, Proposed Water Supply Reservoir and Off-Stream Dam, US COE Section 404 Permit, Endangered Species Act (Section 7) and Right-of-Way Use Permit, Located on Newlin Gulch along Cherry Creek, Town of Parker, Douglas County, CO.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns that the document failed to compare the impacts of the alternatives on the existing environment, primarily the impacts of the stream depletions. EPA was also concerned that the project meets only a small portion of the expected demand for water in the project area, does not document the likely water quality of the proposed reservoir, and does not contain a sufficiently detailed mitigation plan.

ERP No. D-FRC-L05223-WA Rating EO2, Martin Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 10942), Construction, Operation and Maintenance of a 10.2-Megawatt (MW) Hydroelectric Run-of-River Facility, License Approval, Cascade Mountains, Martin and Kelley Creeks, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, King County, WA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental objections to the proposed project based on the lack of a demonstrated public interest need for the project, the potential to undermine protections prescribed in the Northwest Forest Plan and the adverse impacts to water quality in a state-designated "extraordinary" water body. EPA recommended that analyses needed to define project impacts and identify mitigation measures be conducted and incorporated in the EIS. EPA recommended selection of the No Action alternative.

ERP No. D-NOA-E91010-00 Rating EC2, Amendment 13 to the Fishery Management Plan for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass, Implementation, in the Western Atlantic